By the King.

A Proclamation for explaining and enlarging his Maiesties former orders for Buildings, in and about London.

WHereas by sundry Proclamations grounded vpon important and weightie reasons, wee haue heretofore made knowen Our Pleasure, as well for restraint of new Buildings in and neere Our City of London, As for reedifying olde Houses with Bricke and Stone, The good effect that hath ensued thereby, and by the diligence and care of Our Commissioners authorized for the execution of Our Commandements in that behalfe, And the dueti-full obedience and conformitie of many Our best disposed Subiects, hath not onely giuen Vs great content, but confirmed Our Resolution against all opposition of refractory persons, to proceede in a worke not onely honourable and gracefull, but safe and healthfull for Our sayd City; It being not without president of ancient times, euen in this Our Citie of London; In the Records whereof it is remembred, that in the time of King Richard the first, Henry Fitz-Allwyn then Mayor, for preuention of casualties by fire, caused prouision to be made, that Buildings in the said City should be of Stone, Which for many yeeres after was obserued: But the neglect thereof in succeeding times, especially in the present, the great confluence to Our sayd City, pestering of the Streets with Jutties, Stalles, and other annoyances scarcitie of Timber, and many other occurrents, haue turned the policie of those ancient times from conuenience to necessitie: In which respect, We are now fully determined, not onely to ratifie Our former Commandements, but to vse all possible endeauour by Our further care and direction to accomplish Our intention in a matter of such high consequence. And therefore being informed, that albeit the discreetest of Our Subiects doe now accept Our Commands, not with conformitie and obedience alone, but with alacritie and cheerefulnesse, as tending to no priuate end, but to the generall good; yet there want not many that doe daily put in vre sundry sleights and inuentions, to the disturbance and impediment of that generall reformation, which we so much affect, vnder pretence of euading the Letter, though not the sence of Our former Proclamations. And albeit some of them, notwithstanding their sleights and subterfuges, haue been censured in Our high Court of Starre-Chamber, yet others hauing not tasted of that seueritie, doe hazard themselues to incurre the like: Howsoeuer, to make offenders in this kind vnexcusable, Wee doe hereby publish and declare, That as wee are resolued to cherish and comfort the dutifulnesse of such as apply themselues to the conformitie desired; So we will extend the

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ſeueritie of our Juſtice to all them, that by ſubtill euaſions ſhall endeauour to fruſtrate Our command. And therefore being giuen to vnderſtand, That the progreſſe of this ſo glorious a worke is now chiefly hindred through the ſupportation and ſtrengthening of ruinous and olde Buildings, vnfit to be continued, by digging of Cellars, and bringing vp new Bricke walles, by erecting new Chimneys and Staire-cales, by placing pieces of Timber, by ſetting on new Rookes and Rafters, and thruſting out of Dormers, knitting and faſtening together the ſayd new Additions vnto the olde Timber by barres and crampes of Iron, and other like deuices, whereby the olde deformitie is not onely continued, but encreaſed.

We doe hereby ſtraitly charge and command, That no perſon or perſons whatſoeuer within Our ſaid City of London, or within two miles from any the Gates of the ſaid City, doe preſume or attempt to doe any of the things before recited, or any other thing whatſoeuer of like nature, tending to the hinderance of our ſaid intended worke, vnleſſe hee ſhall be thereunto licenced and allowed by our Commiſſioners for Buildings.

And further we do hereby ſtraitly charge and command, That no perſon or perſons whatſoeuer within the limits aforeſaid, doe at any time hereafter preſume or attempt to erect, couer, ouerlay or incloſe any houels or other Sheds of Timber, with Reeds, Faggots, Hay, Straw, Boards, or other materials, or doe raiſe vp any wall, pale or banke of earth, to which Sheds may be added: Or doe repaire or new make into the ſtreets, any maner of Bulkes, Stalles, windowes, doores, or other offenſiue iſſues: Or doe alter or change the vſe of any dwelling houſe or other building to any more noyſome or offenſiue vſe, end or purpoſe, then the ſame was imployed before the time of the demoliſhing or altering the ſame. By all which, and eſpecially by the ſaid pretences of repaire and alterations, Our Royall intention of Reformation is much hindred and preuented. Our will and pleaſure therefore is, That all ſuch as ſhall hereafter preſume to offend in any the premiſſes, vnder pretence of repairing decayed houſes, or addition or alteration of dwelling houſes or other Buildings, or otherwiſe, hauing not firſt had the approbation of our ſaid Commiſſioners, ſhall be deemed as perſons oppoſing Our Royall commandements, and be proceeded againſt in our high Court of Starre-chamber, according to the qualitie of their ſeuerall offences.

And Whereas by our former Proclamation, all Houſes and Buildings, to be reedified or new made within the limits aforeſaid, were to be built of bricke, or bricke and ſtone, We being deſirous that the like good order and decency ſhould be obſerued hereafter within fiue miles of any the gates of our ſaid Citie, Doe hereby ſtraitly charge and commaund, That no perſon or perſons doe hereafter preſume, to erect, reedifie, or ſet vp any houſe or Building within the ſaid diſtance of fiue miles from any the gates of our ſaid Citie, vnleſſe he doe make all the vtter walls of the ſame of Bricke, or Bricke and Stone; And that all houſes and Buildings to be erected within the ſaid Citie of London, or in, or adioyning to any open ſtreete of any Towne or Village out of the ſaid Citie within the limits of fiue miles aforeſaid, ſhall be built according to the forme and proportion hereafter in theſe preſents expreſſed, viz. Euery whole ſtory of and in ſuch Houſes and Buildings, and all and euery the roomes of ſuch whole Story, ſhall bee of the height of ten foote of Aſſize at the leaſt, and euery halfe Story, of and in ſuch Houſes and Buildings, ſhall be of the height of ſeauen foote and a halfe at the leaſt: And that the forefront and all outward and diuiſion walls betwixt houſe and houſe, & the Jambes, heads and ſoyles of the windowes, ſhall be of Brick, or of Brick & Stone, and the windowes (being of Timber) not to be put in vntill the Jambes and heads aforeſaid, be finiſhed and beare of themſelues.

And if the ſaid Buildings doe not exceed two Stories in height, then the walls thereof ſhall be of the thickneſſe of one Brick and halfe a Brickes length from the ground vnto the vppermoſt part of the ſaid walls. And where the Building ſhall be of the height of three Stories, the walls of the firſt Story ſhall be of the thickneſſe of two Bricks length, and from thence vnto the vppermoſt part of the wall, of the thickneſſe of one Brick and halfe a Bricks length, and ſo proportionably if there ſhall be more Stories.

And that in building of the ſaid houſes, there ſhall bee no Jutties or Jutting, or Cant windowes, either vpon Timber Joyſtes, or otherwiſe, but the walls to goe direct and ſtreight vpwards, and at the ſetting off a water-table to be made. Alſo the forme of the windowes of euery whole Story to be of more height then bredth, to the end the roomes may receiue ayre for health, and that there bee ſufficient Peeres of Brick, not leſſe then halfe the bredth of the windowes betweene them for ſtrength. And likewiſe the windowes of euery halfe Story to be made ſquare or neere thereabouts.

And that all Shops and Streete doores be made with Pillaſters of Stone, or Bricke, and the heads of the Shop windowes cut in Wedges, with Arches ouer them to ſuſteine the wall aboue, and that the Pillaſters of Stone be in bredth fifteene inches at the leaſt, and as thick as the wall of the Story.

And laſtly, that none doe raiſe the firſt floore to gaine height in their cellars, ſo as they are forced to make ſteps into the ſtreete.

And to the end this Our pleaſure hereby ſignified and publiſhed, may be the better executed, Wee doe hereby require and authorize Our ſaid Commiſſioners for Buildings, and euery or any of them, and all and euery Juſtice, or Juſtices of Peace, reſpectiuely to commit to ward or Priſon, all ſuch perſons as ſhal be found to offend in any of the premiſſes, contrary to the intent of this Our Proclamation. And we doe further require and command, and giue authoritie vnto all Mayors, Sheriffes, Juſtices of Peace, Conſtables, Headboroughes, and other Our Officers and Miniſters, without any further or other warrant, to make ſtay of, and reſtraine all irregular Buildings and proceedings contrary to Our command heereby, or by any former Proclamation concerning Buildings publiſhed. Wherein if any ſhall be ſo bold to proceed notwithſtanding this Our gentle admonition, Our pleaſure then is, that Our Attourney Generall for the time being, doe from time to time informe againſt ſuch perſons in Our High Court of Starre-chamber, as Wilfull contemners of Our Royall Command.

Giuen at Theobalds the ſeuenteenth day of Iuly, in the eighteenth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland, and of Scotland the three and fiftieth.

God ſaue the King.

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ANNO DOM. M.DC.XX.